FOLK STUDIES 561: FOLK ART
FALL SEMESTER 2010, MONDAY 5:30-8:15

Instructor: Timothy H. Evans
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This graduate seminar is an interdisciplinary survey of the field of folk art studies. Drawing primarily on folk studies but also on anthropology, art history, literature, visual studies, cultural studies and other areas, the course will be an introduction to the study of visual arts within cultural context, while encouraging students to apply this knowledge in a variety of possible venues. The course is thematically organized but will also focus on matters of methodology, research and presentation of folk art. Lectures and discussions will be supplemented with films, field trips and other activities.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class participation (20% of final grade). In a graduate seminar, participation is the heart of the class. To participate, you will need to keep up with the readings.

2. Oral book review (10% of final grade). Not a detailed summary of the book, but a critical evaluation of the book’s purpose, scope, theoretical framework, and major arguments, using examples from the book. Approximately 15-20 minutes. Reports may include handouts, slides, power point presentations, etc.

3. Semester project (40% of final grade: 10% for oral presentation, 30% for written paper). A research project involving fieldwork with folk art or artists. 1-2 page proposals are due 10/4, 20 minute oral presentations are 11/22 and 11/29, the final project is due 12/6. This assignment will be the subject of handouts and class discussion.

READINGS

CAN BE PURCHASED AT CAMPUS BOOKSTORE OR ONLINE. You are not required to buy these books, but you are required to read them.


Bunzel, Ruth L. *The Pueblo Potter: A Study of Creative Imagination in Primitive Art* (Dover, 1972, orig. 1929). **Note:** This book is out of print. You will need to find a used copy online, possibly at amazon.com, alibris.com, abebooks.com or half.com.


READINGS from the Journal of American Folklore (JAF) or the Journal of Folklore Research (JFR) can be accessed on campus computers, via PROJECT MUSE or JSTOR. The entire run of JAF is available on JSTOR; PROJECT MUSE starts with 2001. JFR is available on JSTOR starting in 1964; PROJECT MUSE starts with 2003. You can access articles available on PROJECT MUSE by googling them on a campus computer; the texts should come right up. For JSTOR, you will need to go to the WKU library website, click on *A databases,* scroll down to JSTOR, click on it, then search for the article. From off campus, you can go to the WKU library webpage, click on *A databases,* put in your WKU email address and password, scroll down to PROJECT MUSE or JSTOR, and search for the article.

All short readings not from JAF or JFR can be found on the class blackboard site. If anyone has problems accessing online materials, please talk to Prof. Evans. Readings available at the Blackboard site are marked **BB** on the class schedule.
REVIEW BOOKS:

Each student must do an oral review of one of the following books.


SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

3/30. Introduction.

9/6. Labor Day – no class!

9/13. Definitions, key words, history.


9/20. Art, culture and anthropology.

Ruth Bunzel, The Pueblo Potter.


9/27. Folk art as individual expression and memory.

Michael Owen Jones, Craftsman of the Cumberlands.


** 10/4. Proposal due for semester project. **


Review: Jo Farb Hernandez, *Forms of Tradition in Contemporary Spain*.

10/11. Aesthetics, Design and taste.

Pravina Shukla, *The Grace of Four Moons*.


10/25. The concept of style.

Timothy Evans, *King of the Western Saddle*.


Vlach, John. AQquilting, @ in *The Afro-American Tradition in the Decorative Arts*. Cleveland: Cleveland Museum of Art, 1978. BB.


11/1. Meaning and symbolism.


Jack Santino, *Signs of War and Peace*.


Bronner, Simon J. “The House on Penn Street: Creativity and Conflict in Folk Art,” in *Folk Art and Art Worlds*. BB.

Review: Daniel Wojcik, *Punk and Neo-Tribal Body Art*.


Michael Baxandall, *Painting and Experience in Fifteenth Century Italy*.


11/22. Student presentations, pt. 1

11/29. Student presentations, pt. 2.
** 12/6. Semester project due **

12/6. Tourism, markets, culture change.

W. Warner Wood, Made in Mexico.


Jones, Suzi. Art by Fiat, and Other Dilemmas of Cross-Cultural Collecting, in Folk Art and Art Worlds. BB.


WEEK OF 12/13. Final Exam. Specific time to be negotiated.